

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 FBIE-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SCA-01 SCS-03

EB-07 /064 W

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P 021914Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6493

DEPT OF JUSTICE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

S E C R E T BOGOTA 7778

DEPT FOR ARA/DEP ASST SECY LUERS

CARACAS FOR LEGAT

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS CO

SUBJ: GOC REQUEST FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION IN KIDNAPPING
CASES

REF: CARACAS 9261 (NOTAL)

1. BEFORE ADVISING COLONEL GUZMAN THAT COOPER HAS DECLINED TO
BE INTERVIEWED (REFTEL), EMBASSY WISHES POINT OUT THE FOLLOWING
TO THE DEPT, THE FBI, AND AS APPROPRIATE, TO COOPER AND SEARS
MANAGEMENT:

A. THE SEARS NEGOTIATORS WERE GIVEN AUTHORITY BY PRESIDENT LOPEZ
TO NEGOTIATE FOR COOPER'S RELEASE WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE
GOC WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT WHEN COOPER WAS SAFE, COOPER AND
THE SEARS PERSONNEL INVOLVED WOULD COOPERATE FULLY IN AN ATTEMPT
TO APPREHEND THE KIDNAPPERS.

B. PRESIDENT LOPEZ HAS PERSONALLY DESIGNATED COL. GUZMAN AS RE-
SPONSIBLE FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE COOPER, SARMIENTO, AND

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NARANJO CASES AND FOR INVESTIGATION OF THE M-19 TERRORIST GROUP

AND HAS SPECIFICALLY REMOVED THE CASES FROM DAS JURISDICTION. SINCE GUZMAN MUST REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE PRESIDENT ON THESE CASES, WE MUST EXPECT THAT OUR FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED WILL BE REPORTED TO THE PRESIDENT.

C. EMBASSY IS NOT IN A POSITION TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS AS TO WHETHER THE PRESIDENT WAS CORRECT IN PERMITTING SEARS TO PAY THE RANSOM; BUT WHETHER IT WAS A PROPER ACTION OR NOT, THE FACT REMAINS THAT IN HIS VIEW, HE COMPROMISED HIS DOMESTIC POSITION AGAINST RANSOM PAYMENTS TO SAVE THE LIFE OF AN EXECUTIVE OF A LARGE AMERICAN CORPORATION AND, AGAIN IN HIS VIEW, THAT CORPORATION, AND THE US GOVERNMENT, ARE NOW REFUSING TO ASSIST HIS DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE IN HELPING DEAL WITH WHAT HE CONSIDERS AS AN IMPORTANT MENACE TO HIS GOVERNMENT. IF WE CONTINUE IN THIS UNRESPONSIVE POSTURE, WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT LITTLE CONSIDERATION, BEYOND THAT REQUIRED BY PROPER AND CORRECT RELATIONS, IF ANOTHER AMERICAN CITIZEN IS KIDNAPPED HERE.

2. COOPER MAY BELIEVE THE F-2'S QUESTIONS ARE "RIDICULOUS FOR THE MOST PART" (REFTEL), BUT WE DOUBT THAT HE IS AN EXPERT IN SUCH MATTERS. COOPER AND OTHER MAY WELL HAVE A LOW OPINION OF THE CAPABILITIES OF THE COLOMBIAN SECURITY FORCES, BUT THEY ARE THE ONLY AUTHORITIES HERE AND FAILURE TO COOPERATE IN A MATTER OF VITAL COLOMBIAN INTEREST CAN BE EXPECTED TO MAKE LIAISON WITH THOSE AUTHORITIES MORE DIFFICULT IN THE EVENT THAT ANOTHER AMERICAN CITIZEN IS KIDNAPPED. UNFORTUNATELY, WE DO NOT VIEW THIS AS BEYOND THE REALM OF THE POSSIBLE.

3. REQUEST LEGATT CARACAS REPEAT REFTTEL AND HIS OTHER MESSAGES TO EMBASSY ON THIS SUBJECT TO SECSTATE,PRIORITY.
DREXLER

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NNN

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